



**NICOLE R. GALLOWAY, CPA**  
**Missouri State Auditor**

March 21, 2018

Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin  
Commissioner Harold Bengsch  
Commissioner Lincoln P. Hough  
Greene County Commission  
1443 N. Robberson Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to renew my request for the Greene County Commission to ask my office to audit the allegations that public resources were used to advocate for the November 2017 ballot measure. As previously stated, my office will do this limited audit with the current resources of the office and will not bill the county.

On December 6, 2017, I called on the Greene County Commission to ask my office to audit credible allegations related to public resources being used by Greene County to advocate for the November 7, 2017, 1/2 cent ballot measure in violation of Section 115.646, RSMo. Despite public statements from the Commission that "...we intend to fully cooperate with the State Auditor's Office on this matter," two commissioners voted to retain a private law firm at taxpayer expense. This law firm subsequently worked to serve the Commission rather than the citizens of Greene County.

In January, you chose not to ask my office to audit but rather to wait to see the results of a complaint filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission before acting further.

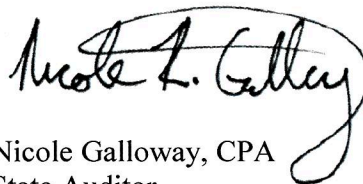
The avenue you chose is not serving the citizens of Greene County. As of March 15, the Ethics Commission no longer has a quorum and cannot act. For the Ethics Commission to once again act on this matter, nominees would need to be submitted to the state senate and confirmed. Today, the citizens of Greene County are left with no guarantee that this course of events will proceed quickly and no timeline as to when any further Ethics Commission action related to this instance could commence.

My office is the only viable option to determine whether and to what extent public resources were used to support the ballot measure. As we explained at the time of our request, it is the job of this office to determine whether government corruption, waste, fraud and mismanagement has

occurred, and to account to what extent the improper government activities occurred. That is distinctly different from the role of the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter, which looks into violations of campaign finance laws, not abuse and misuse of taxpayer dollars. In the nearly four months since I requested you call on the State Auditor's Office to audit the allegations surrounding the November ballot measure, nothing has been determined, and nothing can be determined because the Ethics Commission has no quorum.

It is not necessary to wait for the Ethics Commission to do a limited investigation, whenever that may happen, as this office can start its thorough review of the allegations now. Nor is it necessary for the Greene County Commission to continue its obstruction of the public's right to know. The process can begin now, simply by reversing your previous decision to delay an audit. Therefore, I am renewing my call for the Greene County Commission to request an audit of the alleged misuse of public resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicole L. Galloway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Nicole Galloway, CPA  
State Auditor

cc: Office of the Governor  
Missouri Ethics Commission